

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 157

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate William McKinley Tipton Jr. on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, William McKinley Tipton Jr. will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on February 23, 2015, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the son of William McKinley Tipton Sr. and Annie Mae Allen Tipton, William "George" McKinley Tipton Jr. was born in Marshall, North Carolina. He moved with his mother, father, and siblings (Nellie, Eloise, Raymond, Gene, Clyde, James, Johnny, and Herbert) to Spartanburg, South Carolina, when he was in elementary school; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton was given the nickname "George B." at a young age based on a cartoon character from the time, and he has been known as George to friends and family ever since; and

WHEREAS, George Tipton graduated from high school in Spartanburg, after which he joined the United States Navy at the age of seventeen, when the United States was engaged in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton served with honor and valor during his military service. He served from 1943 until the end of the war aboard the USS *Chester*, which was deployed to the South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of a Bofors 40mm gun crew and fought in the battles for Taroa, Wotje, Maloelap, the Aleutians, Wake Island, the Marcus Islands, the Leyte Gulf, and Iwo Jima. He and his crewmates also patrolled the seas off Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home to Spartanburg following the conclusion of the war, George enrolled in business school, where he met Louise Smith, the woman who would become his loving wife on March 2, 1953; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton embarked upon a career with Consolidated Credit in the 1950s and covered the states of Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee in his territory. He performed with acumen and alacrity, and gained promotion in the company throughout the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, he and his family relocated to Dalton, Georgia, where he founded a new business, North Georgia Regional Collection Agency, with his wife a few years later. George Tipton still serves as the Chief Executive Officer, and his daughter, Barbara Tipton Miller, oversees the day-to-day operations of the company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton has been a devout member of Dalton First Church of the Nazarene for more than forty years, during which time he has volunteered his services in membership to the Georgia District Church of the Nazarene Advisory Board and the Trevecca Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, in his service to his church and his Lord, George Tipton has participated in a number of work and witness trips to Hong Kong; the Philippines; Seoul, South Korea; and Beijing, China; and

WHEREAS, he is also devoted to family values of the highest order. George was the primary caregiver of his wife, Louise, before her passing in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton is the loving father of Barbara Tipton Miller, the late George B. Tipton, and Mark Tipton; the doting grandfather of Kimberly Medlin Vetter, Kerri Medlin Allmond, Jennifer Medlin Barnes, Timothy Aaron Tipton, and Christin Tipton Fangmeyer; and the devoted

great-grandfather of Johnny Fangmeyer, Cole Fangmeyer, Katie Allmond, Alexander Takase, Jordan Vetter, and Isaac Barnes; and

WHEREAS, as he begins his tenth decade, George Tipton is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of America's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commend and congratulate William McKinley "George" Tipton Jr. on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday, extending our best wishes to him for every future success and happiness in all endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.